

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A system comprising:  
a voice-enabled user interface;  
a voice module operable to input data spoken by a user and operable to receive voice  
commands spoken by the user in both of a data entry mode associated with data entry into an  
5 element of the voice-enabled user interface and a navigation mode associated with navigating  
to or from the element; and

an open interaction element characterized by an ability to accept multiple data entries  
when the voice module is in the data entry mode,

10 wherein the voice module is operable to enable a first exit option and a second exit  
option from the open interaction element for use by the user, to thereby allow the user to  
switch from the data entry mode to the navigation mode using either of the first exit option  
and the second exit option.

15 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the first exit option is characterized by receipt  
of an explicit exit command spoken by the user, and the second exit option is characterized  
by receipt of a navigation command spoken by the user.

20 3. The system of claim 1 wherein the voice module is operable to enable a third  
exit option from the open interaction element for use by the user, the third exit option  
characterized by an automatic transition from the data entry mode to the navigation mode  
after a passing of a pre-determined period of time.

25 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the voice module is operable to enable a third  
exit option from the open interaction element for use by the user, the third exit option  
characterized by a verbal command common to a plurality of elements in the voice-enabled  
user interface, receipt of which initiates a tabbing functionality between the open interaction  
element and a designated one of the plurality of elements.

30 5. The system of claim 1 wherein the voice module is operable to enable the first  
and second exit options simultaneously.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the voice module is operable to enable the first and second exit options in a temporally overlapping manner.

5 7. The system of claim 1 wherein the voice module includes a speech recognition engine operable to recognize the voice commands spoken by the user in both of the data entry modes and the navigation modes.

10 8. The system of claim 1 wherein a navigation command spoken by the user includes one of a plurality of verbal commands associated with one of a plurality of elements in the voice-enabled user interface, receipt of which initiates accessing the associated 15 interaction element.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the voice module receives one of the plurality of verbal commands associated with one of the plurality of interaction elements and identifies an element in the voice-enabled user interface to be accessed, the identified 15 element being associated with the received verbal command.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein a navigation command spoken by the user includes a verbal command common to a plurality of elements of the voice-enabled user interface which may be navigated to or from when in the navigation mode, where receipt of the verbal command initiates individual identification of each of the plurality of elements.

20 11. A command grammar for a voice-enabled user interface comprising:  
an explicit exit command grammar for receiving an explicit exit command from a user for exiting an open interaction element in the voice-enabled user interface, the open interaction element being characterized by an ability to accept multiple data entries when in a data entry mode; and  
25 an implicit exit command grammar for receiving a navigation command from the user for navigating to or from one of a plurality of elements in the voice-enabled user interface associated with the received navigation command, wherein receipt of the navigation

command initiates exiting from the open interaction element and entering a navigation mode associated with navigating to or from one of the plurality of elements.

5        12.      The command grammar for a voice-enabled user interface of claim 11 further comprising a time-out grammar for detecting a pause in speaking of the user, the pause characterized by a passing of a pre-determined period of time, and resulting in initiating an exit from the open interaction element.

10        13.      The command grammar for a voice-enabled user interface of claim 11 further comprising a tab grammar for receiving a verbal command common to a plurality of elements in the voice-enabled user interface, receipt of which initiates a tabbing functionality between the open interaction element and a designated one of the plurality of elements.

15        14.      The command grammar for a voice-enabled user interface of claim 11 further comprising an all elements grammar for receiving a verbal command common to a plurality of elements of the voice-enabled user interface which may be navigated to or from, where receipt of the verbal command initiates an identification of each of the plurality of elements.

20        15.      A method comprising:  
                  outputting an open interaction element in a voice-enabled user interface, the open interaction element being characterized by an ability to accept multiple data entries when in a data entry mode;  
                  receiving data for entry into the open interaction element; and  
                  enabling a first exit option and a second exit option from the open interaction element  
25        for use by the user, to thereby allow the user to switch from the data entry mode to a navigation mode associated with navigating to or from elements in the voice-enabled user interface, where the first exit option is characterized by receipt of an explicit exit command spoken by the user, and the second exit option is characterized by receipt of a navigation command spoken by the user.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising enabling a third exit option from the open interaction element for use by the user, the third exit option characterized by an automatic transition from the data entry mode to the navigation mode after a passing of a pre-determined period of time.

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17. The method of claim 15 further comprising enabling a third exit option from the open interaction element for use by the user, the third exit option characterized by a verbal command common to a plurality of elements in the voice-enabled user interface, receipt of which initiates a tabbing functionality between the open interaction element and a designated one of the plurality of elements.

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18. The method of claim 15 further comprising enabling one or more exit options simultaneously.

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19. The method of claim 15 wherein the navigation command spoken by the user includes one of a plurality of verbal commands associated with one of a plurality of elements in the voice-enabled user interface, receipt of which initiates accessing the associated interaction element.

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20. The method of claim 15 wherein the navigation command spoken by the user includes a verbal command common to a plurality of elements of the voice-enabled user interface which may be navigated to or from when in the navigation mode, where receipt of the verbal command initiates an identification of each of the plurality of elements.